

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: God of the founders of this Nation, who has shown us mercy throughout our history, be attentive to Your people and our needs today. In Your wisdom, You have established us as stewards of creation. Guide the Members of Congress and all citizens of this great land in their work today.

May the dignity of their enterprise bear results, which will unite Your people and bring about a prosperity that will embrace the least in our midst and reveal the generosity of those richly endowed so to give You ever greater glory, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ECONOMY AND EFFORTS TO PASS SECOND ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, with thousands of Americans losing their homes and jobs, skyrocketing costs for basic items such as gas prices at an all-time high, Americans everywhere are feeling the negative impact of these failed economic policies that we are living under.

Congress has already enacted an economic stimulus package that will provide relief to families in need. Last week, House Democrats called on President Bush to again work in a bipartisan manner on a second stimulus package, one that would help our economy get back on track.

House Democrats are also working on legislation to help 1.5 million American families to avoid foreclosure. This legislation goes further than the President's plan to help only 100,000 homeowners. This one goes to 1.5 million.

Congressional Democrats are proposing strong initiatives that will help stabilize the housing market and help jump-start an economy that is simply leaving just too many people behind.

THE PELOSI RECESSION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, taxes are a function of spending. If you spend more, you must tax more.

The spending budget we passed previously is predicated on the largest tax increase in American history. Tax increases are coming to all Americans. Tax increases are on autopilot.

Without even a vote, tax levels are going to snap back up to the old levels, the levels that existed before the 2001 and 2003 tax reductions. In other words, doing nothing is doing something.

One of the reasons for the uncertainty in the market is because people know these tax increases are coming. All marginal income tax rates will increase, capital gains rates will increase, the marriage tax penalty will come back, the child tax credit will decrease, the death tax will jump back up to 55 percent. This will hurt the economy.

The Democratic leaders have blocked free trade with Colombia, they have blocked efforts to produce more oil and natural gas resources, they have blocked lower taxes. All this will hurt the economy.

People are beginning to call this the Pelosi recession. Maybe they are right.

HONORING EVA GEIRINGER SCHLOSS

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Eva Geiringer Schloss for her efforts to educate our Nation about the evils of racism and hate.

Eva was born in Austria in 1929. When the Nazis invaded, she and her family went into hiding in Amsterdam until they were arrested on Eva's 15th birthday.

Eva was sent to Auschwitz, where she endured the daily degradation of the concentration camp that robbed so many of their lives. Eva's father and brother were killed in the Holocaust. She and her mother were liberated by the Russian army.

Eva Geiringer Schloss has traveled throughout the United States educating thousands of people about the dangers of unchecked prejudice and hate. A play based on Eva's life entitled "And Then They Came for Me" has been presented all over the country and will be performed in my district to mark the Holocaust Remembrance.

It is my honor to recognize Eva, a courageous woman who endured unimaginable brutality and has dedicated her life to fighting injustice.

HONORING RIC FLAIR

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the career of a man

whom I am proud to call both a constituent and a friend.

Ric Flair's professional wrestling career of 36 years, in which he entertained millions of people around the world, recently came to a close. He will be forever known as an innovator, a pioneer, and, perhaps, the greatest that his industry has ever seen. By any standard, Ric Flair is a living legend.

He is recognized all over the world, but he calls Charlotte, North Carolina, home. On his way to being named a record 16-time world champion, he became famous for his bleached blond hair, his designer suits, and his charismatic on-stage persona, while dishing out his trademark chops, and, of course, the dreaded Figure Four Leglock.

On March 29, 2008, Ric Flair became the first active wrestler to be ever inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame. Often imitated, but never duplicated, his legacy will forever be synonymous with the world of professional wrestling. He is a fixture at Carolina Hurricanes games and Panthers games in our State. The joy and emotion that Ric Flair's very presence evokes will continue on for a very, very long time.

Today I honor the career of Nature Boy and congratulate Charlotte's favorite son, Ric Flair.

Woooo!

TAX BENEFITS AND RELIEFS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today is the dreaded April 15, and I, like millions and millions of Americans, have filed my returns and those for my mother and others.

This Congress has tried to provide and has provided relief for middle-class taxpayers and middle-income taxpayers and extended those tax benefits. We have also passed relief for the people who pay the alternative minimum tax.

But with the stimulus package, we provide moneys for people to get a refund. But to get that refund, people have to file their taxes. Be sure and file your taxes, and if your income is \$75,000 or less or \$150,000 for a couple, you can get your stimulus relief package passed by this Congress.

We wish our moneys weren't going to rebuild Baghdad and for war efforts, but with the work of this Congress, one day we will have peace, we won't be spending the money in Baghdad, and we will be spending the money in America to rebuild our infrastructure.

THE WASHINGTON ELITES

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the Washington elites are trying to rule the land like a monarchy, claiming they know